

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting formation of an atherosclerotic lesion comprising administering to contacting a macrophage of a mammal with a compound that reduces expression of AFABP, wherein said AFABP comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 and wherein a reduction in AFABP expression inhibits formation of an atherosclerotic lesion and wherein said compound comprises an nucleic acid comprising 10-100 nucleotides, the sequence of said nucleotides being complementary to a coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting formation of an atherosclerotic lesion in a mammal, comprising identifying a mammal in need of said inhibition, and introducing to contacting a macrophage of said mammal with a compound that reduces expression of AFABP, wherein said AFABP comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 and wherein a reduction in AFABP expression inhibits formation of an atherosclerotic lesion and wherein said compound comprises an nucleic acid comprising 10-100 nucleotides, the sequence of said nucleotides being complementary to a coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said compound inhibits transcription of said AFABP.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said compound inhibits expression of said AFABP in macrophages but not in adipocytes.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said compound inhibits expression of said AFABP in adipocytes but not in macrophages.

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7.-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said antisense nucleic acid is a DNA operatively linked to a macrophage-specific promoter, wherein transcription of said DNA yields nucleic acid product which is complementary to an mRNA encoding an AFABP polypeptide.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said compound is introduced into an artery of said mammal.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said compound is locally administered to a site of an atherosclerotic lesion in said mammal.

12. (Previously Amended) A method of inhibiting differentiation of a macrophage into a foam cell, comprising contacting said macrophage with an inhibitor of AFABP expression, wherein said AFABP comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 and wherein a reduction in AFABP expression inhibits differentiation of a macrophage into a foam cell and wherein said compound comprises an nucleic acid comprising 10-100 nucleotides, the sequence of said nucleotides being complementary to a coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

13.-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Added) A method of inhibiting differentiation of a macrophage into a foam cell, comprising contacting said macrophage with an inhibitor of AFABP expression,

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wherein a reduction in AFABP expression inhibits differentiation of a macrophage into a foam cell and wherein said inhibitor comprises a compound that binds to a cis-acting regulatory sequence of AFABP, said inhibitor comprising a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma (PPAR γ) or peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor alpha (PPAR α) compound.

25. (Previously Added) A method of inhibiting formation of an atherosclerotic lesion comprising administering to a mammal a compound that reduces expression of AFABP, wherein said inhibitor comprises a compound that binds to a cis-acting regulatory sequence of AFABP, said inhibitor comprising a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma (PPAR γ) or peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor alpha (PPAR α) compound.